

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /144 W

-----122334Z 063817 /15

R 121400Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2570

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS IR

SUBJECT: IRAN REAFFIRMS FIFTY MILE FISHING ZONE

1. THE GOI ON MAY 12 REAFFIRMED IRAN'S CLAIM TO AN EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE EXTENDING FIFTY NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE BASELINE OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE GULF OF OMAN. LOCAL NEWS REPORTS HEADLINED THIS AS A NEW DEVELOPMENT, (I.E., FISHING ZONE "ESTABLISHED"; IRAN "EXTENDS" SEA LIMIT), BUT IN FACT PROVISIONS WERE FIRST INCLUDED IN GOI PROCLAMATION OF OCTOBER 30, 1973.

2. IN THE PERSIAN GULF THE ZONE IS LIMITED BY THE EXTERIOR LIMIT OF WATERS ABOVE IRAN'S CONTINENTAL SHELF. WHERE CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENTS EXIST BETWEEN IRAN AND THE PERSIAN GULF STATES, THE EXTERIOR LIMIT CORRESPONDS WITH THE LINE OF DEMARCATION AGREED TO. WHERE SUCH AGREEMENTS DO NOT EXIST, THE FISHING ZONE IS LIMITED BY A MEDIAN DISTANCED EQUALLY FROM IRAN AND THE OTHER COUNTRY ALONG ALL POINTS OF THE TWO NATIONS' TERRITORIAL WATER BASELINES. THIS LATTER ARRANGEMENT WILL REMAIN VALID UNTIL DEMARCATION AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN IRAN AND SUCH

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COUNTRIES. THE SAME MEDIAN WILL BE FORCE WHERE, IN THE GULF OF OMAN, IRAN'S AND ANOTHER COUNTRY'S FISHING ZONE OVERLAP.

3. COMMENT: HEAD OF MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND LOS REPRESENTATIVE KAZEMI CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF SUBSTANCE OF PRESS REPORTS AND NOTED THAT THE PROCLAMATION IS BEING REPRINTED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR "TECHNICAL REASONS". WE ARE AWARE THAT IRANIAN FIRMS HAVE

BEGUN LARGE SCALE EXPLOITATION OF THE ABUNDANT COASTAL WATERS IN BOTH THE PERSIAN GULF AND THEHBZMAN. IT MAY BE THAT LOCAL BOATS ARE FACING SERIOUS FOREIGN COMPETITION FOR SHRIMP AND OTHER SEAFOOD FROM MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING NORWAY, SOVIET UNION, NORTH KOREA AND PAKISTAN. MISSION BELIEVES IMPERIAL IRANIAN NAVY WITH ITS LIMITED RESOURCES, MAY FIND IT HARD PRESSED TO EXECUTE PROVISIONS OF THIS DECREE OR TO CONTROL FISHING WITHIN THESE EXPANDED BOUNDARIES. THIS "REAFFIRMATION", THEREFORE, WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE INFRINGING ON IRANIAN FISHING WATERS.

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Message Attributes

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